Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T CAIRO 14451

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS AND AMBASSADOR ATHERTON

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR PGOV EG IS
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SADAT AND RELATED MATTERS

REF: (A) CAIRO 14358, (B) STATE 143751

1. CALLED VP MUBARAK THIS MORNING TO TELL HIM I WAS BACK AND TO ASK THAT HE ARRANGE A MEETING WITH SADAT, PRESUMABLY IN ISMAILIA. AFTER WARMLY WELCOMING MY RETURN, MUBARAK SUGGESTED I MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT ON THURSDAY. I TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD BE HAPPY TO MEET WITH SADAT AT ANY TIMECONVENIENT TO THE PRESIDENT, BUT THAT I WAS EXPECTING SOME MATERIAL FROM WASHINGTON WHICH WOULD BE USEFULFOR MEETING, BUT WHICH I DID NOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE UNTIL THE WEEKEND. IUNDERSTOOD FROM DCM MATTHEWS, AS A RESULT OF LATTER'S TALK YESTERDAY WITH MUBARAK THAT SADAT EXPECTS TO BE BUSY SATURDAY THROUGH MONDAY. IN CIRCUM-STANCES, PERHAPS TUESDAY, JUNE 13, WOULD BE CONVENIENT DATE FOR THE PRESIDENT. MUBARAK EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT WAITING THAT LONG. HE THEN TOLD ME THAT, DEPENDING UPON WHEN THE EXPECTED MATERIAL ARRIVES, HE THOUGHT THAT HE COULD ARRANGE A MEETING WITH SADAT FOR SATURDAY OR

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SUNDAY. HE ASKED THAT I BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM AGAIN AS SOON AS THE MATERIAL ARRIVES. I TOLD HIM I WILL DO SO. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, IF EXPECTED MATERIAL IS RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT I COULD MEET WITH SADAT ON SATURDAY AS WE DISCUSSED DURING WASHINGTON TALKS.

2. SADAT WILL BE INTERESTED IN HAVING AN ACCOUNT OF

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WASHINGTON'S LATEST THINKING, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE LIKELIHOOD OF POSITIVE ISRAELI RESPONSES TO THE TWO QUESTIONS THAT WE HAVE PUT TO THEM AND WHICH ARE AGAIN TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT SUNDAY'S CABINET MEETING. TODAY'S EGYPTIAN PRESS CARRIES ARTICLE, DATELINED JERUSALEM, QUOTING DAYAN AS SAYING HECONSIDERS IT PREMATURE TO SAY ANYTHING CONCRETE NOW ABOUT EXACTLY WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN WEST BANK/GAZA AFTER FIVE YEARS. IF DAYAN IS QUOTED CORRECTLY, THIS STATEMENT WILL DO LITTLE TO EASE EGYPTIAN CONCERNS THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE STALLING ON WEST BANK/GAZA AND WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO SELL THEM ON A CONCEPT THAT ISRAELI ANSWERS ARE SUFFICIENTLY POSITIVE TO WARRANT THE KIND OF EGYPTIAN RESPONSE THAT WE WOULD LIKE. I AM SURE WE ARE ALREADY BRINGING THIS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ISRAELIS, BUT THEY AND WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT SADAT IS NOT LIKELY TO BE DISPOSED TO TAKE MANY FURTHER CHANCES ON BASIS OF VAGUE ISRAELI REPLIES.

3. WITH RESPECT TO A POSSIBLE SADAT/DAYAN MEETING, TODAY'S AHRAM/AKHBAR CARRY FRONTPAGE RESPONSE ON POSSIBILITY THAT DAYAN MAY SHORTLY RESIGN BECAUSE OF STRONG DIFFERENCES WITH BEGIN. STORIES ARE BASED ON AFP TELAVIV DRAWN FROM HAARETZ AND SUGEST THAT DAYAN DESIRES ALTER BEGIN'S SELF-RULE PROPOSAL TO OFFER JORDAN OPPORTUNITY PARTICIPATE IN ADMINISTRATION OF WEST BANK AND DETERMINATION OF ITS FUTURE WHILE BEGIN EXCLUDES ANY SUCH PROPOSAL. STORIES

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STATE THAT DAYAN WILL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO RESIGN FOLLOWING CURRENT CABINET DISCUSSIONS OF WEST BANK/GAZA FUTURE AND GOES ON TO SAY THAT DAYAN'S RESIGNATION, IF IT TAKES PLACE, MAY LEAD TO DMC WITHDRAWAL FROM ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. WHEN WE GIVE EGYPTIANS THE ISRAELI REPLIES TO OUR TWO QUESTIONS, ORPERHAPSEVEN EARLIER, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE COULD PROVIDE OUTESTIMATE OF LIKELIHOOD DAYAN RESIGNING OR STAYING ON.

4. WHILE IT IS TOO SOON TO TEL WHETHER FONMIN KAMEL WILL BE AT MY MEETING WITH SADAT, THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT HE WILL ATTEND. LATEST WORD IS THAT HE IS SCHEDULED RETURN CAIRO JUNE 9, WHICH WILL PROBABLYMEAN THAT HE WILL WANT TO REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT ON JUNE 10 OR 11 DEPENDING UPON HOW KAMEL FEELS. EILTS

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